

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-07 EUR-12 /078 W

-----126533 311245Z /45

R 310908Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6122

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 7361

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN MARR KS US

SUBJ: KOREAN PRESS ON US DEFENSE POLICIES

1. KOREAN MEDIA HAVE GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON INDICATING THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ISSUED NEW INSTRUCTIONS ON DEFENSE POLICY AND DEPLOYMENTS. ENGLISH AND KOREAN LANGUAGE PRESS HEADLINED STORIES THAT SECOND DIVISION WOULD BE RESTRUCTURED AS PART OF MOBILE REACTION FORCE FOR USE IN ASIA AND OTHER AREAS. ARTICLES ALSO STRESSED REPORTED DECISION TO MAINTAIN STRONG NUCLEAR DETERRENT VIS-A-VIS SOVIET UNION AND TO STRENGTHEN CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN EUROPE.

2. EDITORIALS ON THESE REPORTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER "EUROPE-FIRST" POLICY IMPLICIT IN THEM. OFFICIAL SEOUL SINMUN WELCOMED THE DECISION TO KEEP SECOND DIVISION AVAILABLE FOR KOREA AND SAID "IT HAS REMOVED WORRIES OF THE ALLIES ABOUT US LEADERSHIP" BUT ADDED "WE STILL  
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DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY AMERICA IS TRYING TO MAINTAIN THE PRESENT NUMBER OF MILITARY FORCES IN EUROPE WHILE REDUCING THEM FROM TROUBLED SPOTS IN ASIA". CHUNGANG ILBO NOTED THAT CARTER PLAN LOOKS SIMILAR TO SCHLESINGER'S CONCEPT BUT "IS BASICALLY DIFFERENT," BECAUSE TROOPS WILL BE STATIONED IN US, RATHER THAN IN KOREA, AND SPECULATED THAT US "EUROPE-FIRST, ASIA-NEXT" POLICY RESULTED FROM CHANGED US PER-

CEPTIONS OF WORLD SITUATION. TONGA ILBO COMMENTED THAT THE RETURN  
OF THE SECOND DIVISION TO KOREA SEEMED UNLIKELY AND THAT IF SUCH  
A RETURN WERE PLANNED, IT WOULD CONTRADICT THE WITHDRAWAL  
DECISION. OTHER PAPERS FOLLOWED SIMILAR LINES, INDICATING  
MIXTURE OF REASSURANCE THAT US INTENDS TO RETAIN CAPABILITY FOR  
USE IN ASIA WITH CONTINUED ANXIETY OVER BASIC WITHDRAWAL DE-  
CISION.  
SNEIDER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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